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LUTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT.

YEAR 1935.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LUTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1925.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1925, which also includes a brief survey of the work during the past five years.

Area. The District comprises 13 Parishes with an area of 36,688 acres.

Population. The population at the census of 1921 was 10,920, and is now estimated at 11,000.

Physical Features and General Characteristics.

The subsoil generally throughout the District is Chalk, overlaid in the West and South by a thin layer of Marl, and in the North and East by a thin layer of Clay and Flint.

Immediately around the Borough of Luton and at Houghton Regis the District is semi-urban in character, and elswhere chiefly agricultural, with large cement and lime works at Sundon, and smaller li e works at Barton, Newell and Totternhoe.

Number of Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses is 3,013 including 137 erected and occupied during the year.

The number of families is larger th n this as in many cases rooms are let and two families (or more) are occupying one home. The estimatednumber of houses occupied by more than one family is 140.

Rateable Value. The Rateable Value of the District is £67,191, and the sum represented by a 1d. rate is £260.

Social Conditions Including Chief Occupation of Inhabitants.

The chief occupations are agriculture, lime and cement manufacture and straw work, together with a few engineering and brick making works.

SURVEY REPORT OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

1. There has been a steady improvement in the public health of the District during the past five years.

2. There has been little change in the water su ply of the various Parishes in the District. Houghton Regis is supplied, as formerly, fro Dunstable Water Co's mains, and Stopsley, Leagrave and Limbury from the mains of the Luton ater Co.

The only alteration in the sewerage of the District has been that certain properties lately erected adjacent to the Borough of Luton Boundary in Limbury and Leagrave and Stopsley Parishes have been connected to the Borough sewers.

3. Scavenging. Scavenging is carried out by contract at Stopsley, Sundon, Houghton Regis, Leagrave and Limbury. The latter Parishes are now scavenged under separate contracts and vacuum exhaust pumps with the necessary equipment, carts and engine are provided for each Parish.

4. Housing. The Council has prov ded over 200 houses in the District under the 1919 Act, and has now begun the erection of further houses under the 1919 Act.

5. Food Inspection. Cow Sheds. Dairies, Slaughter Houses , Bakehouses and Licensed Premises are inspected periodically by the Sanitary Inspector and Myself. The Duties under the Food and Drugs Acts are carried out by the County Council Officers. Factories and Workshops are under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and Myself, special attention being paid to sanitary arrangements.

The Council contemplate carrying out a scheme of sewerage for the rapidly developing Parishes of Leagrave and Limbury. Instructions have been given to the Engineers to prepare a suitable scheme and the proposal is to convey the sewerage from the Parishes by gravitation into the Borough of Luton sewers.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year 211 births and 125 deaths were registered as compared with 218 births and 121 deaths in 1924, giving a birth rate of 17.73 per 1000 per annum and a death rate of 10.50 per 1000 per annum.

There have been 24 deaths of residents not registered in the District and 9 deaths of non-residents registered in the District, giving a total of 140 deaths belonging to the District, and a nett death rate of 11.76 per 1000 per annum.

The causes of death were as follows :-

Influenza 4. Pulmonary Tuberculosis 12. Cancer 12. Cerebral Haemorrhage 16. Heart Disease 16. Bronchitis 20. Pneumonia 10. Nephritis and Brights Disease 1. Diphtheria 1. Congenital Debility 13. Violent Death 4. Suicide 2. Appendicitis and Typhlitis 1. Arterio Sclerosis 2. Encephalitis lethargica 1. Whooping cough 1. Measles 1. Other Defined Diseases 22. Causes Ill Defined or Unknown 2.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 15 deaths of infants under 1 year, giving a death rate of 71.09 per 1000 births.

Thec causes of death were :- Congenital Debility, Premature Birth etc. M.9., F.2. Othe r Diseases M.1., F.3.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DUR NG THE YEAR.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
Diphtheria	12	8	1
Scarlet Fever	16	7	-
Pneumonia	7	7	10
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	26	-	12
Wrist "	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Encephalitis lethargica	1	-	1
Chicken Pox	9	-	-

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year 211 births and 120 deaths were registered as occurred with 213 births and 121 deaths in 1924, giving a birth rate of 17.73 per 1000 per annum and a death rate of 10.80 per 1000 per annum.

There have been 24 deaths of residents not registered in the District and 9 deaths of non-residents registered in the District, giving a total of 120 deaths belonging to the District, and a nett death rate of 11.70 per 1000 per annum.

The causes of death were as follows :-

Influenza 4. Pulmonary Tuberculosis 12. Cancer 12. Cerebral Haemorrhage 10. Heart Disease 16. Bronchitis 3. Pneumonia 10. Nephritis and Bright's Disease 1. Diphtheria 1. Congenital Debility 13. Violent Death 4. Suicide 2. Appendicitis and Typhlitis 1. Arteric Sclerosis 3. Encephalitis lethargica 1. Whooping cough 1. Measles 1. Other Defined Diseases 33. Causes ill defined or Unknown 2.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 15 deaths of Infants under 1 year, giving a death rate of 71.09 per 1000 births.

Three causes of death were :- Congenital Debility, Premature Birth etc. 7. B.B., B.B. Otha r Diseases 8.1., 8.3.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES FOR 6TH YEAR.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
Diphtheria	12	8	1
Scarlet Fever	18	7	-
Pneumonia	7	4	10
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	30	-	12
Typhoid "	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	1
Meningitis Intensyna	1	-	1
Chicken Pox	9	-	-

HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, ETC.

Professional Nurses in the Home.

There are no nurses provided by the County Council nor the District Council, but there are several Nursing Associations with District Nurses for General and Maternity Nursing, and contributions towards the expenses involved are received from various Public Bodies.

Hospitals.

Tuberculosis. The County Council has a Sanatorium at Heggerhanger Park.

Fever. For Scarlet Fever, Diptheria, Enteric Fever, etc. this is provided in conjunction with Dunstable Borough and Eaton Bray Rural District at Kensworth Joint Hospital (30 beds).

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is kept at Kensworth Hospital for infectious cases and this is also used for non-infectious and accidental cases.

Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological Aids to Diagnosis. This is carried out by the Clinical Research Association Ltd., but reports are somewhat slow in coming to hand owing to postal arrangements.

Diptheria Antitoxin.

This is provided by the Council and supplied to the Medical Practitioners as required.

Byelaws.

Revised byelaws with respect to new streets and buildings, drainage of existing buildings, cleansing of pavements, earth closets, privies and ashpits, etc. were made by the Council and came into force in 1914.

Sanitary Administration.

Staff - Medical Officer of health part time.
One Sanitary Inspector with a part time Assistant.

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HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :-

a.	Under Subsidy	127	
b.	Others	10	137

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health of Housing Acts 150

2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the (Inspection of District Regulations 1910 -

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 48

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding heading) found not to be inal respects fit for habitation 52

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers. 42

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY ORDERS.

Proceddings under sec. 28 of the Housing Town Planning etc. Act. 1919.

1. Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 6

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :-

a. By Owners 6

b. By Local Authority in Default of Owners -

3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners on intention to close ... ... -

The Council has the following houses under the 1924 Act. :- Leagrave and Limbury 24. Houghton Regis 16. Totternhoe 12.

Others are to be erected in the above Parishes ,also at Barton, Streatley and Sundon. Most of these are to replace houses found unfit for habitation.

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INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

NOTICES SERVED.

Notices to Owners (Informal)	41
" " " "B"	6
Houses repaired	29
Ashpits, Closets etc. repaired	10
Drainage Works, Paving Repairs	6
Cesspools Overflowing	340
Privies Converted to Pail Closets	2
Ashpits and Bins	5
Accumulations of Refuse	1

INSPECTIONS.

Factories and Workshops	20
Bakehouses	12
Slaughter Houses	9
Licensed Premises	35
Schools	15
Water Analysis	3

INFECTIOUS CASES REPORTED.

Diphtheria 9. Scarlet Fever 8. Tuberculosis 27.

Removed to Hospital 15

Houses Disinfected 26.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN ROLLINGS.
Medical Officer of Health.

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